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NEW ENEMY IN VIETNAM: U.S. soldiers in Vietnam face still~~another threat--a new, deadly, drug-resistant strain of malaria.~~

The new strain of the mosquito-transmitted disease is reported by University of Michigan medicinal chemist Joseph H. Burckhalter, who invented amodiaquin, one of the major anti-malarial drugs. Dr. Burckhalter says that most of the drugs now used to fight malaria are no longer effective against its deadliest form. Three years ago, Dr. Burckhalter notes, the control of malaria was well in hand. But since then certain deadly strains of the disease have become resistant to the drugs used to combat them. In only three years these resistant strains have traveled from South America to Africa and Asia and now particularly threaten Malaya and Vietnam. Recently when malaria struck a Cambodian village, a third of the victims did not respond to any of the existing malaria drugs. "Three years ago it is almost certain that all would have responded," Dr. Burckhalter says. As a result, physicians are being forced to resort to the use of quinine, the classical cure which was abandoned 25 years ago because of its toxicity. The U.S. Armed Forces are alarmed over the threat this development poses to military operations in Southeast Asia.

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